



NATIONAL PRESERVE (NO LONGER UNDER CONSIDERATION)

Under this alternative, Congress would have established a National Preserve incorporating all of the study area, with NPS management only of land acquired by NPS, and interpretive, educational, and other cooperative programs throughout the area.

Within the National Preserve, the NPS would have acquired priority parcels of land as willing seller opportunities and funding became available, entered into partnership arrangements with other agencies and organizations, and conducted educational and resource management programs. NPS land acquisition would have focused on relatively intact watersheds, wildlife and trail corridors, coast to crest connectors, and coastal access.

The NPS would have used a mix of fee acquisition, easements, incentives, and partnership programs in order to retain the cultural landscape and maintain the viability of farming and ranching. A

combination of federal, state, local and private land management and acquisition mechanisms would have been encouraged. The NPS would have made no attempts to acquire all, or even most, of the land within the boundary.

Landowners not seeking to sell land or interests in land to the NPS or other organizations would have maintained their land in current ownership and under the current set of local, state and federal resource management and land use regulations.

The NPS would have collaborated in resource protection and public education with other public and quasi-public land managers. Each organization would have continued to manage its own land and programs.

Archeological, ceremonial, and other sites important to the Chumash would have been protected, in collaboration and consultation with Chumash organizations. Opportunities for active cultural education and interpretation would have been explored.

The National Preserve boundary would have included Vandenberg AFB. Space launch activities would have continued, and all areas of the base would have remained under Vandenberg AFB's command. The NPS would have managed visitor use and education programs in the Sudden Ranch area at the south end of the base, where there are no launch facilities.

Authorizing legislation would have enabled the NPS to enter into agreements with Vandenberg AFB to provide guided day-use recreation, interpretation and education programs for the public, on additional portions of the base. Visitor services and resource protection would have been provided either by NPS staff, volunteers, a system of authorized guides, or some combination. Selected corridors within the base might have been authorized for self-guided automobile or hiking tours, subject to Vandenberg AFB access controls.

Authorizing legislation would have provided for direct transfer of nationally significant portions of Vandenberg AFB to the NPS if those portions of the base were ever declared excess to the U.S. Department of Defense.

Summary Statement: Management Options

If NPS management were financially and politically feasible, NPS could contribute significantly to the conservation of the Gaviota Coast study area resources, in conjunction with the contributions of other agencies and organizations, and continued private stewardship. However, because of the factors outlined in the feasibility discussion, the NPS recommends management by other organizations.



Vandenberg AFB, NPS photo

Notes

1. National Park Service. 2001. *National Park Service Management Policies*. United States Department of the Interior.